

Chairs and distinguished members of the Committees,

My name is Marion Simone Heiss, and I live in Westport, Ct. I am testifying in response to SB-1085 and HB-7371.

I DO NOT SUPPORT THE BILL.

My now 15 yr. old son became terribly addicted to Marijuana at 14 yrs old. His life unraveled before our eyes, for the 12 mos. that followed. A once healthy, extremely bright, athletic boy quickly deteriorated to a mere shell of himself, wanting nothing else to do but get high every second he could.

His grades plummeted, anxiety, depression, and erratic behavior set in, and disengaging from his close friends and family. Sneaking out in the middle of the night to meet his drug suppliers and get high.

His Dad and I had to act fast, or fear losing our son. We made the heart wrenching decision on August 30, 2018 to send him to Wilderness Therapy in Utah for 3 mos., where he was on suicide watch for a week from the affects of smoking massive amounts of marijuana the days before he left. From Utah, he was immediately taken to a RTC in N.C. where he remains to this day.

My 15 yr. old son has not seen his home or extended family for 7 grueling months now. He has been clean since he left, and is on his road to recovery and will remain there until August. I have only deep sadness for my son, and raging anger for the Big Marijuana Industry and the people who would vote for this horrific and destructive bill.

The devastation this has caused our family has left scars, and immense anger at what this pathetic and greedy big marijuana industry has created.

SHAME ON THEM for targeting our children. And shame on the People who support this Bill to legalize recreational marijuana. What if these were your children who were suffering because of this?

Marijuana is a gateway drug that is highly addictive....that is a proven fact. My broken son is an example of that.

I ask that you open your eyes and see the immense damage being done to these kids and families.

THIS IS AN EPIDEMIC...A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS.

It's time for all to acknowledge this and begin to protect our children.

With a broken heart, I beg you to vote AGAINST this horrific Bill.

Thank you